

THE KNEES HISTORY

- 1786 James Gunman purchases the manor of Sibertswold (including *The Knees*).
- 1825 Colonel George Ralph Payne Jarvis inherits *The Knees* as part of Sibertswold manor.
- 1841 *The Knees* appears on the 1841 Tithe map of Sibertswold as plot number 117, description 'Knees', cultivation 'wood' and quantities '7.1.19'. The owner and occupier of *The Knees* is shown as George Ralph Payne Jarvis.
- 1855 East Kent Railway (extension to Dover) Act published.
Evan William Morris, civil engineer appointed for Canterbury to Dover extension with T. R. Crampton and Burge.
- 1859 Board of East Kent Railway receive a deputation from Nonnington and Sibertswold asking for stations at Adisham and 'Butter Street'; the company agreed to approve these providing that the land was given free together with £500 to cover the costs.
Illustrated London News: 'A fine seam of coal has been found between Lydden-hill and Shepherdswell, a few miles from Dover, and, what is remarkable, the coal is on all sides surrounded by chalk, with the usual seams of flint as are seen on the cliffs at Dover. The more the seam is entered upon the better becomes the quality of the coal.'
- 1860 From Adisham when inspecting the line, ½ mile from Lydden tunnel (at *The Knees* ?) the directors of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway travel in trucks drawn by horses though Lydden tunnel lit by candles, having to duck their heads as they pass under low, rough scaffolding.
A small pocket of coal was found whilst boring the tunnel.
- 1861 Sibertswold has a population of 411, though the population was swollen by the presence of navvies.
London, Chatham & Dover Railway opens (bisecting *The Knees*). Plans for Sibertswold – Deal – Sandwich line prepared by LDCR.
- 1901 Population of Shepherdswell 463. Shepherd's Well Railway Station, Thomas Virgo, station master.
- 1902 Admiral Sir Edward Bridges Rice dies at Dane Court, Dover (shown as owner of *The Knees* on undated map circa 1880. It is thought that his son Henry Edward Harcourt Rice inherited his estate.
- 1908 O.S. map shows a brick works, kiln and an orchard at *The Knees* (owned by Henry Smith).
- 1910 East Kent Light Railway Company proposed line from vicinity of Shepherdswell station passes through a speculative building estate laid out 10 years previously, belonging to Mr Dixon. The 'graded' section of the North Downs Way between Eythorne Road and Long Lane is a remnant. One house had been built on the estate and a further plot sold. Mr Dixon was compensated. (Kelly's 1907 Directory lists Henry Edward Harcourt Rice esq. of Dane Court and W. Dixon esq. as principle landowners in the district.)
- 1911 Start made on East Kent (Light) Railways Company line through *The Knees* to Tilmanstone, including the northern connecting curve (never fully tracked to Southern railway sidings). Contractor was William Rigby & Co.
Railway need was urgent because traction engines hauling heavy equipment to the collieries were destroying the rural roads. First train runs to Tilmanstone.
- 1913 Tilmanstone pit opens as a 'worthwhile' pit
- 1916 EKR starts passenger service to Wingham (Colliery).
- 1935 *The Knees* reservoir (80,000 gallon) constructed, fed with the aid of an 8 hp Lister oil-engine pump from a spring (deep well) on EKR land.
- 1939 EKR under government control. Tank traps placed at entrance to northern connection.
- 1940 12" howitzer gun 'Cleo' based at Shepherdswell on EKR tracks (5th Super Heavy Battery) to cover St Margaret's Bay to Dungeness area.
- 1941 Guns calibrated on 21st May.
- 1942 11th Battery & 2nd Super Heavy Battery at Shepherdswell with 'Scene-Shifter and Piece-Maker.
- 1944 Reservoir, damaged by concussion, was repaired (War Dept. paid £72). Howitzer guns removed.
- 1948 British Railways take control of EKR, passenger service ceases.
- 1959 BR electrification of Faversham to Dover line.

1960	NCB bulldozes the EKR yard at <i>The Knees</i> to make space to store unsold Tilmanstone coal. Shepherdswell residents protested at the prospect of dust and dirt from the tips. All work ceased while the question of planning permission was investigated. (Coal was never stored at Shepherdswell.) Diesel traction replaced steam on EKR.
1984	Last train from Tilmanstone colliery (colliery officially closed in October 1986)
1987	Line officially closed.
1985	East Kent Railway Society formed.
1992	Kent Trust for Nature Conservation includes <i>The Knees</i> as Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) DO 40.
1993	East Kent Railway Society obtained Light Railway Order.
2007	East Kent Railway Trust purchase <i>The Knees</i> .

Some Former Notable Owners of The Knees:

James Gunman* died in 1824 aged 76 at Biggin Street, Dover. He was the son of Christopher Gunman (a previous mayor of Dover). In 1773 he was appointed as collector at Dover for duties enlarging Ramsgate and Sandwich harbours and in 1774 he was appointed collector of duties on prize wines. James Gunman was mayor in 1776, 1784 and 1789. He acquired the manor of Sibertswold in 1786 (including *The Knees*) from Mr William Baldock and William Slodden, gent. both of Canterbury. James Gunman married **Sarah Hussey Delaval***. By her will she left all her estate (including Doddington Hall in Lincolnshire) to her friend Colonel Jarvis. (See 'scandal' article in *Bygone Kent* Vol. 17 No.11 Nov. 1996.)

'Gunman's Mansions' was a large house in Dover occupied by the wealthy Gunman family. After Sarah's death it was occupied by Colonel Jarvis's eldest son and his wife Emily. There is a memorial to Emily Jarvis in St Mary's Church, Dover. 'Gunman Mansions' was later demolished to make way for Pencester Road and Gardens.

Colonel Jarvis* (born 1774, the youngest of 21 children of an Antiguan plantation owner, came to England at the age of 21) died June 14th 1851 at Doddington hall, Lincolnshire, aged 77. George Ralph Payne Jarvis, esquire of that place, a Lieut.-Colonel in the army, and a deputy lieutenant and magistrate of Lincolnshire. He entered the army as Ensign in 1792, became Lieut. in the 36th Foot in Dec. 1793, Captain in Nov. 1799, and Major in Dec. 1810. He served with the 36th in the Peninsula in 1808-9; was present in the battles of Roleia, Vimiera, and Cornna, and in consequence received the war medal with three clasps.

In 1811 he was placed on half-pay. In 1813 and 1814 he acted as Major of Brigade to Major-Gen. Barlow on the staff of the Kent District. He attained the brevet rank of Lieut.-Colonel in 1819. He was twice married, first in 1802 to Philadelphia, third daughter of Ebenezer Blackwell, esq. by Mary, daughter of the Rev. Robert Eden, Prebendary of Winchester; and, secondly, in 1830, to Frances, daughter of the Rev. John Sturges, LL.D. Chancellor of Winchester, and sister to the late Right Hon. William Sturges-Bourne. By the former lady he had issue five sons and two daughters.

Colonel George Ralph Payne Jarvis was Commandant of Dover Castle, and on his retirement from the army, he became manager of the prestigious Fector Bank in Dover.

Colonel Jarvis retired from the bank in 1823 and moved away from Dover. He became Magistrate and Deputy-Lieutenant for Lincolnshire in the 1840's.

By his will dated 28 November, 1850 he devised Doddington Hall, all his real estates at Doddington, the advowson of the rectory of Doddington and all his other lands in Lincolnshire, all his real estates in the city of Coventry and county of Warwick, and his capital mansion and real estates in Dover and Kent to the use of his eldest son **George Knollis Jarvis** during his lifetime and thereafter in strict settlement with ultimate remainder to his right heirs for ever. Trustees of his will were appointed with powers to sell or exchange all or any part of the estates excepting Doddington Hall itself and the Lincolnshire estates, and to apply the money received from such sales to the purchase of freehold hereditaments or of copyhold or leasehold tenements which could be conveniently held with the Doddington estate and which were to be settled to the same uses.

By 1873 it seemed very probable that there would be an entire failure of issue to take under the limitations contained in the will and Counsel's opinion was sought as to whom in that case would take under the ultimate use to the testator's right heirs. Counsel's opinion was that Col. Jarvis's eldest son as his heir-at-law at death would be entitled in fee simple under the last remainder. George Knollis Jarvis accordingly made a will dated 15 August 1873 in which he resettled the estates subject to the prior limitations of his father's will. He died soon after-wards in October 1873. In fact the settlement created

by the will of Colonel Jarvis did not come to an end until the death without issue in 1921 of Canon Robert Eden George Cole at the age of 89. He had only succeeded George Eden Jarvis, son of G. K. Jarvis, as tenant for life in August 1919.

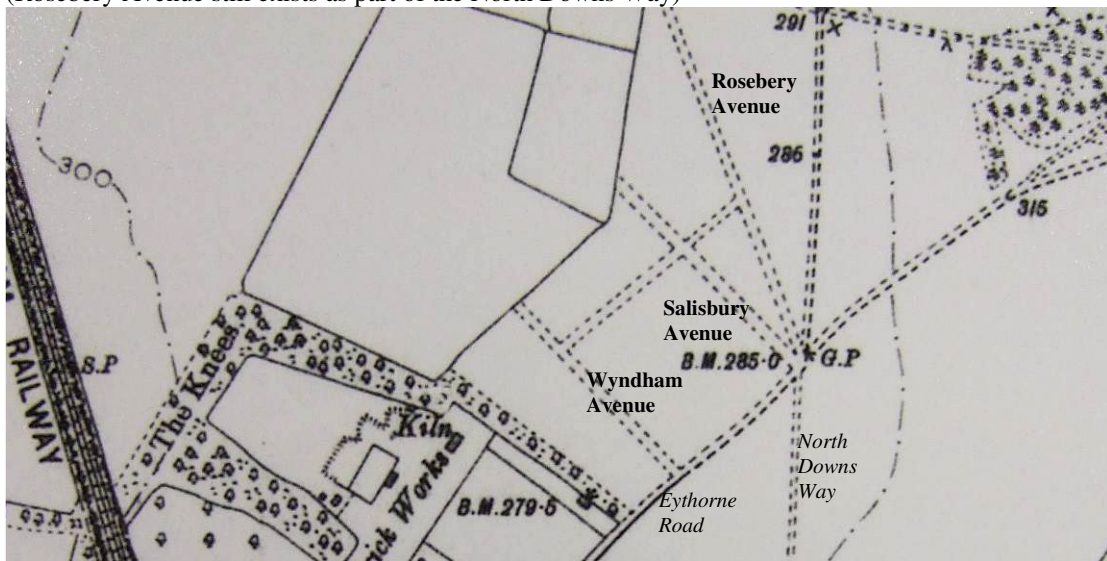
George Knollis Jarvis (born in 1803) died in 1873 aged 70. George Knollis Jarvis married Emily in 1833. She was the eldest daughter of the Rev. G. T. Prettyman, Chancellor of Lincoln, and grand daughter of the late Bishop of Winchester. They came to live in Dover. Emily died in 1840 at the age of 24 and was buried at St Mary's church. George Knollis Jarvis was appointed Sheriff in Council for Lincolnshire in 1857 and Chairman of Bracebridge Asylum in Lincolnshire in 1871.

Admiral Sir Edward Bridges Rice (born 1819) died October 1902 at the age of 83. He was the son of Mr Edward Royds Rice of Dane Court, Dover, a prominent man in his county and Liberal member for Dover in four parliaments. Admiral E. B. Rice entered the Navy in 1832 and became mate in 1839, in which capacity, in 1842, he served in the Dido during the operations on the Yang-tzekiang, and for this service received a medal. He became lieutenant in 1844 and commander in 1850. Two years later he commanded the flotilla of boats for two months on the Irrawaddy in advance of the British Forces, engaged the Burmese at Metha, destroyed their magazines and war boats and dispersed the troops. Commander Rice had charge of the seamen and naval guns on shore at the capture of Prome, and, in addition to the Burmese medal, received the thanks of the Governor General in Council. In 1854, when commander of the Prometheus, he attacked the Riff pirates on shore near Cape Tres Forcas, and recapture the English brig Cuthbert Young. On this occasion Parliament voted the Prometheus £1,000. Receiving his step in 1855, he was employed as flag captain in the Leander at Sevastopol from January 1830, to the evacuation of the Crimea, and received the Turkish and Crimean medals with the Sevastopol clasp. He attained flag rank in 1873 and became vice-admiral in 1878. Admiral Rice was commander-in-chief at the Nore from 1882 to 1884, when he retired, being promoted admiral three days after his retirement. He was A.D.C. to Queen Victoria from 1869 to 1873, was made a Companion of the Bath in 1881, and was created K.C.B. in June 1857. Admiral Rice, who was, as was his father before him, a magistrate and deputy lieutenant for the county of Kent, married in 1864 a daughter of the late Rev. William Vernon Harcourt, of Nuneham Park, Oxon. (One of his brothers was Admiral Sir Ernest Rice (born 1840), who lived at Sibertswold Place, Shepherdswell, which burnt down in 1920. Admiral E. Rice died in April 1927.)

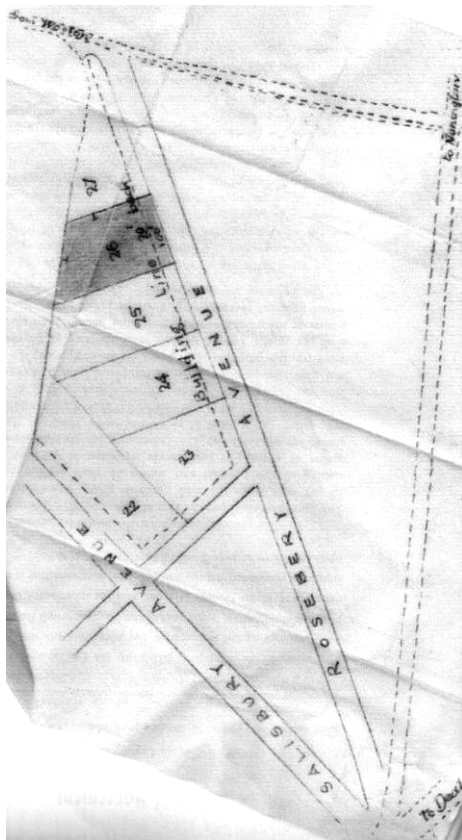
Henry Edward Harcourt Rice, of Dane Court, Tilmanstone, Kent, died at Birchland, Mortimer, Reading, on April 10 1944. He was born in 1864, son of the late Admiral Sir Edward Bridges Rice, K.C.B. In 1895 he married the Hon. Helen Sarah Godley, eldest daughter of the first Lord Kilbracken. The Hon. Mrs Rice, who was made an O.B.E. in 1920, died in 1922, having two sons. Secondly Mr Rice married in 1925 Kathleen Mathilda Beresford, daughter of the late Mr G de la Poer Beresford, M.P. and Mary Annabella Harcourt.

Henry Edward Harcourt Rice lived at Dane Court, Dover and North Court, Eastry, Kent. He gifted Shepherdswell Recreation Ground to the Parish Council in 1937 to commemorate the memory of His late Majesty George the Fifth.

a) 1908 O.S. Map showing 'Shepherdswell Building Estate' roads (with added road names) - (Rosebery Avenue still exists as part of the North Downs Way)



b) Shepherdswell Building Estate was owned by Mr William Dixon, of 'Belle Vue', Herne Hill, Surrey and was laid out in 41 plots -



c) In October 1905, plot 27 was sold by Mr Dixon to Rosa Annie Harpur. This plot became 'Long Lane Cottage' as shown on the 1938 O.S. map -



d) In February 1906, plot 26 was sold by Mr Dixon to Mr Alfred Allen Whitlock, of 4 Rosedale Road, Putney at a price of £40.00. No house was built and on the 1938 O.S. map, plot 26 is shown as scrub land.

e) Presumably the East Kent Light Railway and the First World War discouraged further development of the 'Shepherdswell Building Estate' and the majority of the land remains open field to this day.